

What is claimed:

- 1 1. A system for delivery of on-line content, comprising:
 - 2 a server computer including a hierarchical database;
 - 3 the server computer is adapted to
 - 4 receive information for inclusion in the
 - 5 hierarchical database;
 - 6 search information contained in the hierarchical
 - 7 database at multiple levels in the hierarchical database;
 - 8 retrieve information contained in the
 - 9 hierarchical database identified as a result of a search;
 - 10 and
 - 11 build content from information received for
 - 12 inclusion in hierarchical database and from information
 - 13 retrieved from the hierarchical database.
- 14 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the hierarchical database
- 15 includes objects, which represent units of information
- 16 contained in the hierarchical database, and at least one
- 17 larger unit of information, which represents a grouping of
- 18 objects.
- 19 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the larger unit of
- 20 information represents a concept.

1 4. The system of claim 2 wherein the larger unit of
2 information represents a topic.

1 5. The system of claim 2 wherein the larger unit of
2 information represents a course.

1 6. The system of claim 2 wherein the larger unit of
2 information represents a series.

1 7. The system of claim 2 wherein the information in the
2 hierarchical database can be searched at the object level.

8. The system of claim 3 wherein the information in the
hierarchical database can be searched at the concept level.

9. The system of claim 4 wherein the information in the
hierarchical database can be searched at the topic level.

10. The system of claim 5 wherein the information in the
hierarchical database can be searched at the course level.

1 11. The system of claim 6 wherein the information in the
2 hierarchical database can be searched at the series level.

1 12. The system of claim 7 wherein the information identified as
2 a result of the search can be previewed.

1 13. The system of claim 7 wherein the content is built from
2 information retrieved from the object level of the
3 hierarchical database.

1 14. The system of claim 8 wherein the content is built from
2 information retrieved from the concept level of the
3 hierarchical database.

1 15. The system of claim 9 wherein the content is built from
2 information retrieved from the topic level of the
3 hierarchical database.

16. The system of claim 10 wherein the content is built from
information retrieved from the course level of the
hierarchical database.

17. The system of claim 11 wherein the content is built from
information retrieved from the series level of the
hierarchical database.

1 18. The system of claim 2 wherein information contained in the
2 hierarchical database can be classified as part of an
3 object or larger unit of information.

1 19. The system of claim 2 wherein there are various types of
2 objects and the objects can be searched by type.